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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0786

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GB, CG, AO
SUBJECT: GOG SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION FOR ZAIRE-ANGOLA

REFS: STATE 66446

B. LIBREVILLE 0742

1. SUMMARY: GOG FULLY FUPPORTING NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF ZAIRE- ANGOLA CONFLICT, WHICH IT SEES AS PART OF SOVIET STRATEGY TO EXTEND INFLENCE IN CENTRAL AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. DCM MET WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF FON MIN ALEXIS OBAME MARCH 29 AND MADE DEMARCHE REQUESTED REFTEL (A).

3. REPLYING TO DCMS PRESENTATION, OBAME STATED THAT GOG EXTREMEELY CONCERNED OVER ZAIRE INVASION BY FORCES WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS OBVIOUSLY SUPPORTED LOGISTICALLY BY ANGOLA, WHICH IN TURN BEING BACKED BY FOREIGN MILITARY ADVISORS AND EQUIPPED WITH FOREIGN ARMS. INVASION, ACCORDING OBAME, IS NOT ISOLATED DEVELOPMENT BUT INSTEAD IS "PROLONGATION" OF SOVIET STRATEGY TO IMPLANT COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY IN AFRICA AND EVENTUALLY TO GAIN CONTROL OF REGIONS REICH NATURAL RESOURCES. GOG BELIEVES IT NO CONINCIDENCE THAT ZAIRE INVASION TOOK PLACE AT SAME TIME AS AFRICAN VISITS OF PRIME MIISTER CASTRO
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AND SOVIET PRESIDENT PODGORNY WHOM OBAME CHARACTERIZED AS " THE BOSS AND HIS MERCNEARY." GABONESE, WHO ARE SU-ROUNDED BY SOVIET STRONGHOLDS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA, CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE AND ANGOLA HAVE FOR SOMETIME FELT THREATENED BY THIS SOVIET AFRICAN STRATEGY, OBAME SAID, AND THEREFORE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN PRO WESTERN GOVERNMENT IN ZAIRE AS COUNTERBALANCE TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN REGION.

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4. OBAME ADDDED THAT GOG HELPING MOBUTU IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE AND MAINTAINING CLOSE LIAISON THROUGH EMISSARIES AND DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PRESIDENTS MOBUTU AND BONGO. WHILE GABONESE ONLY ABLE TO OFFER LIMITED MATERIAL SUPPORT, GOG IS MAKING CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO RALLY OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO MOBUTUS DEFENSE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATED RESOLUTION OF SHABA INVASION. ON DIPLOMATIC FRON, PRINCIPAL GOG STRATEGY IS TO BRING AS MUCH PRESSURE AS POSSIBLE ON THOSE "PROGRESSIVE NEIGHBORS" OF ANGOLA WHERE BONGO FEELS HE HAS SOME INFLUENCE. OBAME SAID THAT ANGOLA NOT LIKELY TO LISTEN TO AFRICAN MODERATES, BUT THAT INTERVENTION AND MEDIATION BY MORE IDEOLOGICALLY SIMILAR STATES, SUCH AS TANZANIA AND CONOGO, WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE. TOWARDS THIS END, OBAME SAID GOG IS URGING PRESIDENTS NYERERE OF TANZANIA AND KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROMOTING MEDIATION. GABONESE ALSO WORKING WITH CONGOLESE, BUT SITUATION THERE IS EXTREMELY CONFUSED IN WAKE OF NGOUABI'S ASSASINATION.

5. AFTER DESCRIBING GOGS EFFORTS TO SUPPORT MOBUTU, OBAME TURNED TO ROLE THAT ZAIRES WESTERN ALLIES COULD PLAY. WHILE AGREEING THAT DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION PREFEREABLE AND ENDORSING AFRICAN MEDIATIO AS BEST MEANS TO OBTAIN SUCH SOLUTION, OBAME NOTED THAT NETO AND HIS FOREIGN MASTERS NOT LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT TO NEGOTIATING TABLE UNLESS CONVINCED THEIR MILITARY GOALS NOT ACHIEVABLE. IN ORDER TO FORCE ANGOLA TO NEGOTIATE, ZIARE MUST DEMONSRTATE ABILITY TO RESIST INVASION, OBAME SAID. TO
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THIS END, ZIARES WESTERN ALLIES, AND OBAME MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY US, FRANCE AND BELGIUM, " SHOULD DO ALL IN THEIR POWER" TO SHORE UP MOBUTU MILITARILY AND THUS TO PREVENT ZAIRIAN ARMY FROM CAVING IN BEFORE INVADERS ADVANCE.

6. OBAME ENDED CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINSTER MARTIN BONGO LATER SAME AFTERNOON TO DISCUSSS ZAIRE SITUATION AND WOULD PASS ON TO MINISTER USG VIEW THAT GOG SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN MEDIATION HIGHLY DESIREABLE. MINISTER BONGO IN TURN SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT BONGO MARCH 30, AND ONE OF PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WOULD BE ZAIRE. STEIGMAN

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